



Map and Graph Skills Activity

Reading an Elevation Profile

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARD 4: The geographically informed person knows and understands how to analyze the physical characteristics of places.



Learning the Skill

An elevation profile is a diagram that shows you a cross section of the landforms in a region or country. That is, it shows a side view of the landforms in an area. By studying an elevation profile, you can see the highest and lowest elevations of an area. To read an elevation profile, follow these steps:

- Read the profile title.
- Read the labels to identify the different landforms shown.
- Compare the highest and lowest points in the profile.

Applying the Skill

Directions: The diagram below shows an elevation profile of Canada. Study the diagram and use it to answer the questions on the next page.

